April 22, 1985

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Thank you so much for sending me *Post Mortem*. I can see that I have miles to go before I sleep just reading your book, let alone worrying what's to become of mine. There's a great deal to plow through there and surely it will take a lot of careful reading to grasp and to remember, so I thought it best to write and thank you now rather than waiting till I finish.

As my father, Sylvan Friedenberg, told you in his letter, I have been following the assassination story since it began. I'm not an investigator, just a very interested reader...and of course I tell the story to whomever will listen. There are a lot of us out here, a lot of people you, and other real investigators, *do* reach. I've read whatever I could get my hands on, from *Whitewash* and *Rush To Judgement* through Josiah Thompson's *Six Seconds To Dallas* and on and on, and I suppose on a very, very local level I'm regarded to know a lot about it, though everything I know is very second hand.

I have a great deal of admiration for those of you who have believed in something so much you just wouldn't let go of it. Most people's concentration level would not permit that sort of dedication. I'm only sorry you've gotten so little return on your investment of time and energy. Of course, you've put a real crack in the door of government secrecy, and surely that has to mean something--if not as it applies to JFK, then perhaps sometime down the road a little, the next time it becomes truly important. The Freedom of Information act hopefully will keep a few things from falling into the little cracks where they seem to *accidentally* get stuffed. And while maybe the doors you've opened will shed little light on finding the solution to a 20 year old crime--perhaps, if someone, the next time, could get in there early on...who knows?

I will read the book, carefully, and then, if I may, I'll be in touch again. I simply wanted to let you know how appreciative I am for getting it.

By the way, thank you for your advice on the pitfalls of publishing. I'm not yet in the postion of having to worry about cash advances...I'm only up to the part where I need to find a publisher. Doubleday had it, and they liked it well enough to pass it on up the ladder, but just recently, I'm told, they rejected it--don't know why yet. They liked it well enough to offer to critique it, and so I haven't gotten it back. However, since that was the first place I've sent it, I just finished writing it in November, I can't say I'm ready to get discouraged.

It amuses me a little bit that the people around me, family and friends, are so upset by the turn down and it's so hard to explain to people who haven't been through it that Writing is the only career in the world where rejection is the norm, and acceptance the exception. I try to explain to them the concept of the *good* rejection versus the *bad*, but they only shake their heads.

From my point of view, Doubleday's reaction was a good one. They did like it, they did take some time with it...and what that tells me is that if they don't want to publish it, someone else will. Anyway, for the first time, I see that possibility. I'm told by those who've read it that it's a good book and well written, and last year at the St. David Writers Conference it won me an award as the most promising new writer there, (naturally, the other newcomer was quite disappointed...!) Anyway, I'm just going to hang in there and we'll see what we see.

I *would* like to get the other books in your Whitewash series, all of them. *Whitewash* #I was probably out of print when I read it, and the copy I found was an old dog-eared one that I found at a flea market...which didn't prevent me from getting a lot from the story, it's just that I had to prop up a few of the pages manually. I'd love to have a good copy for my library, especially since I have a fairly good size collection of assassination material. The others in the series I never have seen. But I was a little befuddled by your pricing list. Next to the first *Whitewash* it says "Net 25.00" Does that mean for the whole series? Or am I misreading it? I'm assuming, I guess, that it

meant the price for all except *Post Mortem* which you know I already have. Either let me know, or just send me the books and a bill.

Again, I'd like to thank you for taking the time to write to my dad, and for sending me an autographed copy...and perhaps, most of all, for taking the time to do the leg work that other, more official agencies should have undertaken a long, long time ago. I'll hope to hear from you and I wish you a great deal of luck.

Sincerely,

Ellen Cohen

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